

PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH
UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

399.731/7-2858

FROM : USUN - New York

104

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 28, 1958

DATE

REF :

EUR-5

35 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION IO-4	DEPT. I	RMR-2 IRC-8 ARA-4 L-2 ULS-1
	REC'D 7-29	OTHER CIA-12	

SUBJECT:

(IO - UNP - MID) -- MEXICAN COMMUNIQUE ON WIDTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA

Enclosed is a copy of a communique, dated July 18, 1958, referring to the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and setting out Mexico's views on the breadth of its territorial sea. This communique was received from the Mexican Mission to the UN.

James W. Kelly
 James W. Kelly
 Deputy Executive Director

Enclosure:

Copy of communique.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

REPORTER

INFORMATION COPY

Retain in divisional files or destroy in accordance with security regulations.

(Classification)

Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 104
From USUN

MISION DE MEXICO ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

The Government of Mexico have issued a communique, which translated into English, reads as follows:

"The Government of Mexico have regretted that the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea held recently in Geneva was unable to reach an agreement on the width of the territorial sea. The determination of the breadth of the territorial sea within reasonable limits, corresponding with the practices, legitimate claims and aspirations of the great majority of the States of the world, would doubtless have been a forward step of evident importance to develop the harmonious cooperation of all countries.

The Government of Mexico are convinced however that the opinions expressed by the States that took part in the Geneva Conference will facilitate the incorporation in the not too distant future of those practices, legitimate claims and aspirations into the body of conventional rules of law universally accepted. My Government also feel - as set forth by the Secreaary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico in his statement upon the conclusion of the meeting at Geneva - that the Conference is entitled to claim as one of its most constructive achievements the fact that "the obsolete three mile standard as the limit of the territorial sea has been generally abandoned and repudiated and has disappeared forever as a binding rule of international law."

In view of the foregoing considerations, the Government of Mexico wish to assert once more the validity and legally binding nature erga omnes of the corresponding provisions of the laws of Mexico, in accordance with which the breadth of Mexico's territorial sea measures nine nautic miles (16,668 meters) from appropriate basic lines. Consequently, and in conformity with the principle reaffirmed in Article 14, paragraph 5, of the "Convention on Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone" adopted by the Geneva Conference, the Government of Mexico will not consider as innocent the passage through the Mexican territorial sea thus defined, of foreign fishing craft that have not complied with the laws and regulations issued and published by the competent Mexican authorities for the purpose of keeping those ships from fishing within such maritime belt.

The Government of Mexico have transmitted a statement to this effect, through their duly accredited diplomatic representative, to the Governments of the other States participating in the Conference of the United Nations on the Law of the Sea with whom Mexico maintains diplomatic relations."

Nueva York, N.Y., a 18 de julio de 1958

UNCLASSIFIED